By the Queene.

THe Queenes moſt excellent Maieſtie, finding the great miſuſage in the execution of ſundry her Highneſſe grants made to diuers perſons, touching certaine penall Statutes, made & ſet forth for the common benefit and vtilitie of her people, and touching the obtaining and recouery of Lands and Tenements concealed, & of ſundry bands, forfeitures, and other things pretended to be vniuſtly withholden and concealed from her Highneſſe and her Crowne: By pretence whereof, ſhe perceiueth a great multitude of her louing Subiects, contrary to the intention of her Maieſties ſaid grants, in many caſes (though not offending) to haue beene greatly vexed and moleſted, and the Lawes not thereby any thing the better executed, but in ſome parts rather impaired, nor any ſuch profit recouered, or obtained to her Highnes vſe vpon ſuch executions & contealements, as was pretended: moſt graciouſly minding the common quiet and profit of her louing Subiects, and willing to remoue all occaſions of ſuch griefs to her people, as things whereof ſhee alwayes hath had, and yet ſtill hath vtter miſliking: Expreſſly willeth and commandeth that the execution of all ſuch ſpeciall grants & Commiſſions made to particular perſons touching the premiſſes, and all Commiſſions not being returned into any her Maieſties courts of Record made vpon, or by vertue of any ſuch grants, ſhall from henceforth ceaſe. And that no new Commiſſions vpon any the grants aforeſaid, do from henceforth paſſe any her Maieſties Seales, nor any Proces or Writ to be awarded, nor information from henceforth receiued, vpon or by vertue of any ſuch Grants or Commiſſion, out of any her Maieſties Courts of Record whatſoeuer.

And further her Maieſtie commandeth, that no Commiſſions or Commiſſioner, or other perſon whatſoeuer, already authorized to execute any ſuch Grant or Commiſſion, ſhal from henceforth deale or proceed any further by inquiſition of Jurors, examination of Witneſſes, or certificate, or by any other wayes or meanes whatſoeuer, to execute any the ſaid Grants or Commiſſions vpon paine of impriſonment, and incurring her Maieſties diſpleaſure. And her Highnes doeth further ſtraightly prohibite and forbid all her Juſtices of the Peace, Maiors, Sheriffs, Conſtables, Bailiffs of Liberties, and other her Officers and miniſters whatſoeuer, as they tender the auoyding of her Highnes diſpleaſure, from henceforth to be in any wiſe aiding or aſſiſting to the execution of any the ſaid Statutes or Commiſſions. And for the better execution of the Premiſſes, if any perſon or perſons contrary to her Maieſties Proclamation and Prohibition, ſhall preſume or execute any the ſaid Grants or Commiſſions, or to be in any wiſe ayding or aſſiſting thereunto: Then her Highnes Will and expreſſe commandement is to all Juſtices of the Peace, Maiors, Sheriffes, Bailiffes, and all other her Officers and miniſters whatſoeuer, to whom it ſhall or may appertaine, to attach and apprehend all and euery ſuch Offendour and Offendours, and them to commit to the common Gaole of the countrey where ſuch offences ſhalbe committed, there to remaine without Baile or Mainepriſe, vntill her Highneſſe pleaſure ſhall by her Honourable Priuie Counſell, or otherwiſe be ſignified what ſhalbe further done in that behalfe.

Prouided neuertheleſſe, That where by meanes of the ſaid Grants diuers Suits are already commenced by the parties, and ſome of them depending in ſundry her Maieſties Courts by Way of Information or otherwiſe, at the charge of the ſaid Patentees, her Highneſſe alſo minding to put the ſame Suits to ſome good end, with the reaſonable contentation of her Subiects, doth by vertue hereof authorize the Lord Chancellour of England, the Lord Treaſourer of England, the Chancellour of her Court of Exchequer, and the Barons of the ſame Court, or two of them, whereof the Lord Chancellour to be one, for all cauſes determinable in the Chancery, and the Lord Treaſourer one for all cauſes determinable in the Exchequer, to heare, order, end, or compound all the ſaid cauſes as ſhall ſtand with equitie to the quiet of the parties moleſted, and the reaſonable ſatisfaction of the Patentees aforeſaid, ratifying and allowing whatſoeuer the ſaid Lord Chancellour, Lord Treaſourer, Chancellour and Barons as aboue is limitted, ſhall doe or conclude touching the Premiſſes.

Giuen at our Mannor of Greenwich the xv. of December, the two and twentieth yeere of our Reigne. Anno 1579.

God ſaue the Queene.

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